1998-99 BHEL has received orders worth Rs. 3900 crore till November, 98 and as of now the outstanding orders are more than Rs. 10,000 crore.

(b) For Thermal Power Station I expansion project, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) has given the supply order to M/s. Ansaldo (Italy) being the lowest bidder, as per guidelines on International Competitive Bidding.

Negative Growth in Core Sector

1595. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Indian Express, dated 26th November, 1998 captioned "Core Sector growth negative";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this trend;

(c) whether Government are giving excessive emphasis to cosmetics, toilet articles, consumer goods and non-core sector items for foreign investment;

(d) whether it is a fact that the FIPB is under pressure from various quarters to give emphasis to non-core sectors only; and

(c) the steps proposed to give emphasis to core sector investments?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The factors that have been responsible for decline in industrial growth inter alia include inadequate investment in infrastructure sectors such as power and transport, low export growth mainly on account of slowdown in world trade and slowdown in growth in certain sectors such as crude petroleum and steel.

(c) No, Sir. Out of the total approvals given to FDI projects so far (August 1991 to October 1998), infrastructrure, transportation and services sectors alone account for nearly 70 per cent.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Government has been encouraging FDI to supplement national efforts, particularly in the core sector, including infrastructure, and has put in place a liberal FDI policy with transparent guidelines for approval of FDI projects. In order to promote core sector investment the Government has deregulated coal and petroleum refinery sector; allowed 100% foreign equity in power sector under automatic approval route upto Rs. 1500 crore etc. Initiatives are underway to allow 100% FDI under automatic route in certain other areas of infrastructure such as roads & highways, vehicular tunnels, bridges, ports, etc.

Investment in the Core Sector

1596. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown the rate of growth of six core sector industries at only 1.7 per cent in the first half of this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for the same period last year the figure was 5.9 per cent;

(c) what factors have been judged to be the cause of this fall in investment in the six core sectors taken for the study;

(d) whether any urgent turnaround of the existing investment policy is planned;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government have neglected such core sectors in foreign investment; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The sector-wise and overall industrial growth of the six core sectors is as follows:

(Base : 1993-94 = 100)

Industry	Weight	1996-97	1997-98	1997-98 (Apr—Oct)	1998-99 (Apr—Oct)
Coal	3.22	5.7	3.6	4.8	2.0
Crude Oil	4.17	−4.7	3.1	3.0	−3.7
Electricity	10.17	3.8	6.5	6.9	6.3
Steel	5.13	5.7	3.5	6.6	−3.1
Cement	1.99	9.6	9.1	7.4	2.7
Petroleum Refinery	2.00	7.0	3.6	5.0	2.3
Overall	26.68	3.7	5.1	5.9	1.7

During April—October, 1998, the overall growth of the six infrastructure industries is 1.7% as against 5.9% during comparable period last year. The growth during April—October, 1998 has been positive in electricity, cement, coal and petroleum refinery products. However, crude petroleum and steel show a negative growth.

(c) to (f) The investment in the core infrastructures as represented by the FDI inflow has recorded an increase from Rs. 426.57 crores in 1995 top Rs. 1637.85 crores in 1997. There has been a slight slowdown in 1998.

In order to promote investment the Government has delicensed from the purview of The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951 coal, sugar and petroleum refinery sector; and also allowed 100% equity in power sector under automatic approval route upto Rs. 1500 crores. Select infrastructure projects are being monitored to remove bottlenecks and expedite implementation and procedural requirements have been streamlines.

In order to encourage investment and provide a greater degree of comfort to potential investors, a number of Regulatory Authorities have been set up to encourage new investments.

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग में भ्रष्टाचार

1597. **श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग के भूतपूर्व अध्यक्ष ने त्यागपत्र दे दिया है और इस त्यागपत्र में इस आशय का आरोप लगाया है कि आयोग में भ्रष्टाचार व्याप्त है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) से (ग) खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग के पूर्व अध्यक्ष ने जनवरी, 1998 में व्यक्तिगत कारणों से अपना त्याग-पत्र दिया था। त्याग-पत्र में खादी ग्रामोद्योग में भ्रष्टाचार का कोई आरोप नहीं लगाया गया था।

अबोट लैबोरेट्रीज इंण्डिया लिमिटेड का लघु उद्योग इकाई के रूप में पंजीकरण

1598. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 25 अगस्त, 1998 के मुम्बई से प्रकाशित होने वाले "द इकॉनामिक टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की एक बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनी अबोट इंक द्वारा नियन्त्रित अबोट लैबोरेट्रीज इण्डिया लिमिटेड ने स्वयं को एक लघु उद्योग इकाई के रूप में वर्गीकृत करवा लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या वह लघु उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन देने की भारत की औद्योगिक नीति के अनुकूल है; और

(ग) क्या इसके कारण विदेशी कम्पनियों का स्वदेशी लघु उद्योगों पर वर्चस्व नहीं हो जाएगा?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी हां,

(ख) कंपनी के आवेदन-पत्र में दी गई निवेश की